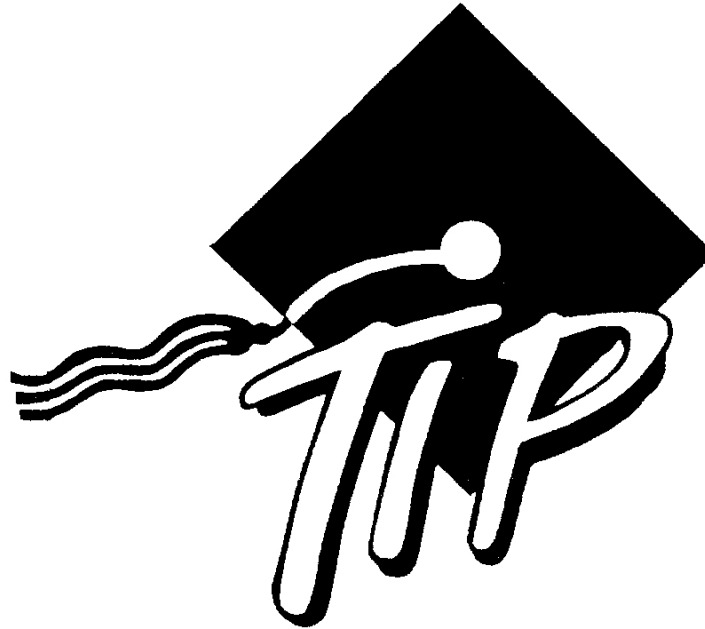


# ***Tuition Incentive Program***







## *Tuition Incentive Program*

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<b>Program Summary .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Program Administration .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Institutional Eligibility .....	2
Treasury Responsibilities .....	2
Institutional Responsibilities .....	3
Institutional Records Retention .....	3
<b>Campus Payments .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Billing Process .....	4
Payment Process .....	4
<b>Student Eligibility .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Individual Requirements .....	5
Citizenship .....	5
Residency .....	5
High School Diploma .....	5
Age Requirement .....	5
Loan Default .....	5
Selective Service .....	6
Incarceration/Felony Conviction .....	6
Illegal Drug Offences .....	6
Financial Eligibility .....	6
Academic Eligibility .....	6
Test Requirements .....	6
Enrollment .....	6
Grade Point Average .....	8
Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) .....	8
Application/Certification .....	8
Renewal .....	8
Appeal Process .....	9
<b>Award Computation .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Phase I Award Amounts .....	9
Community College .....	9
Public University .....	9
Independent Colleges .....	9
Phase II Award Amounts .....	9
Mandatory Fees .....	10
Credit Hour Limit .....	11
Converting Clock Hours .....	11
Packaging .....	11
Disbursement Procedures .....	11
Refunds .....	12
<b>Appendix .....</b>	<b>13</b>
Michigan Community Colleges Map .....	13
Michigan Community College Districts .....	14





## **Program Summary**

The Tuition Incentive Program (TIP) is an incentive program that encourages eligible students to complete high school by providing tuition assistance for the first two years of college and beyond. Students must be enrolled in courses leading to an associate degree or certificate. Certificate courses are defined as “at least a one-year training program that leads to a certificate (or other recognized educational credential), which prepares students for gainful employment in a recognized occupation.” Certificate must be issued by a degree-granting institution and must be credit hour based or clock hours converted to credit hours.

### **Enabling Legislation**

Annual Higher Education Appropriations Act

### **Administrative Rules**

In lieu of Administrative Rules, refer to this Administrative Procedures Manual.

### **Funding Source**

Michigan Merit Award Trust Fund  
Payments are based on funding level availability.

### **Administrative Office**

Student Scholarships and Grants  
Michigan Department of Treasury  
P.O. Box 30462  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7962  
Toll-free number: 888-447-2687  
Fax number: 517-241-5835  
E-mail address: [osg@michigan.gov](mailto:osg@michigan.gov)  
Web site address: [www.michigan.gov/ssg](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg)



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## **Program Administration**

### **Institutional Eligibility**

Institution must be a Michigan college that participates in either Phase I or Phase II, which includes:

Community colleges

Public universities

Independent, degree-granting colleges or universities

Federal tribally controlled community colleges

Focus: HOPE

### **Michigan Department of Treasury (Treasury) Responsibilities**

Develop forms and procedures for applicants and colleges.

Publicize and promote program.

Identify financially eligible students from Department of Human Services (DHS) records and send out applications to identified students every six months.

Process student applications.

Notify eligible students of their financial eligibility and provide information on eligibility criteria.

Reimburse higher education institutions for eligible students' tuition and mandatory fees.

Collect refunds of grant funds if required.

Provide technical assistance to colleges.

Monitor program expenditures.

Report year-end data.



## **Institutional Responsibilities**

Verify that the student is a high school graduate or has GED. A student has until August 31 of the academic year in which his/her class graduates.

Verify student eligibility for Phase I (enrolled in an associate degree program or certificate course) and for Phase II (enrolled in a bachelor's degree program). All programs must be credit-based.

Retain copy of student's Letter of Eligibility and Phase II Letter, if applicable.

A non-credit course at an approved institution can be paid **only** if the course is defined in the institution's course catalog as a requirement for completion of the program.

Determine award amount based on credit hours and tuition rate. Calculate billing amount by multiplying the number of billable credit hours by the actual tuition rate per credit hour.

*Example: 12 credit hours x \$80 per credit hour = \$960*

Submit payment reimbursement forms to Student Scholarships and Grants.

Apply funds to students' accounts.

Notify Student Scholarships and Grants of any changes in students' academic eligibility.

Identify the program on communications to the student.

Reconcile year-end data with Student Scholarships and Grants. If refund owed, return funds to Treasury, SSG, by the end of the fiscal year (September 30). See the Refund Section on page 12 for mailing instructions.

Supply other related data as requested for accounting or statistical reports.

## **Institutional Records Retention**

All program records must be held in the financial aid office files and made available for audit purposes upon request.



## *Tuition Incentive Program*

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Program records are to be retained in accordance with federal Title IV student aid requirements: a minimum of three (3) years from the date the college reconciled year-end funds with Department of Treasury/Student Scholarships and Grants.

## **Campus Payments**

### **Billing Process**

Institutions may submit one reimbursement invoice request per quarter (of the State's fiscal year) according to the following schedule:

Quarter	Invoice Deadline	No Invoice Paid After
First	November 15	November 30
Second	February 15	February 28
Third	May 15	May 31
Fourth	August 1	August 15*

Institutions must complete the TIP reimbursement request forms available at [www.michigan.gov/ssg](http://www.michigan.gov/ssg) by the deadline date.

Institutions may submit reimbursement requests only AFTER each semester or term refund period.

\*Late submissions are subject to available and approved funding. Summer semester/term is always considered a "trailer" and must be billed before the August 15 deadline.

### **Payment Process**

Payments are disbursed quarterly. (See dates listed above.)

Payments are authorized by and issued from Treasury/Student Scholarships and Grants.





## **Student Eligibility**

### **Individual Requirements**

#### ***Citizenship***

The student must be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. national, or a U.S. permanent resident who has an I-551 or I-551C. Or, the student must hold an Arrival-Departure Record (I-94) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) showing one of the following designations: “Refugee,” “Asylum Granted,” “Parolee,” “Victim of human trafficking,” T-Visa holder (T-1, T-2, T-3, etc.), or “Cuban-Haitian Entrant.”

#### ***Residency***

The student must be a Michigan resident as determined by institutional criteria.

#### ***High School Diploma***

The student must have received a high school diploma, certificate of completion or GED certificate. A home-schooled student may be eligible if the college accepts the home-school documents.

#### ***Age Requirement***

The student must have been less than 20 years of age at the time of high school graduation or GED completion.

Completion is defined as the date the student completed all course work or passed the GED test rather than the date the student received the diploma or the date the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) issued the certificate.

TIP eligibility ends ten (10) years from the date of high school graduation or GED completion.

#### ***Loan Default***

An award is prohibited to any student who has defaulted on a loan guaranteed by SSG, or any federal Title IV or Title V loan unless he/she has made satisfactory arrangements to repay the loan.

For program eligibility, satisfactory loan repayment requirements are the same as those set forth under federal student financial aid program policies. Current or retroactive reinstatement of an award depends on the availability of funds at the college.



***Selective Service***

Registration with Selective Service is not a requirement for this program.

***Incarceration/Felony Conviction***

Incarcerated students are not eligible to receive consideration in the program.

***Illegal Drug Offenses***

Student eligibility for this program is not affected by the conviction for illegal drugs.

**Financial Eligibility**

There are no financial need requirements for students who have been identified by Treasury/Student Scholarships and Grants.

**Academic Eligibility**

***Test Requirements***

There are no test requirements for the Tuition Incentive Program.

***Enrollment***

The student must initiate enrollment within four (4) years of high school graduation or GED completion. This can be no later than the fall semester of that fourth academic year. All benefits must be used within ten (10) years of high school graduation or GED completion.

Example:

Student graduates in June 2007 and has until academic year 2010-2011 before he/she reaches the four-year mark. This student has until fall of the next academic year to initiate enrollment. So the student can enroll no later than the fall of academic year 2011-2012 to initiate benefits. A student who initiates enrollment in winter of that academic year is too late and is no longer eligible. If the student enrolls on time, TIP eligibility will end in academic year 2016-2017.

The student must be enrolled at least half time at the 50% drop/add period (as determined by institutional policy).



PHASE I:

Students must be enrolled in an associate degree or certificate program. If a student receives an associate degree and has fewer than 80 credits, the student can enroll in a second associate degree program until the maximum of 80 credits has been used, **as long as Phase II has not been initiated.**

Students are limited to using no more than 24 semester or 36 term credits in one academic year.

PHASE II:

Students must be enrolled in a bachelor's degree program. They must have either one of the following:

- 56 transferable semester or 84 transferable term credits. Any credit that would apply toward pursuit of a bachelor's degree at your institution. This includes credits earned at another institution to be transferred in and/or credits earned at your own institution.
- An associate degree or certificate.

College must verify date requirements were met.

Phase II coursework must be completed within 30 months of completion of Phase I requirements. A student does not have to receive Phase I payments in order to qualify for Phase II.

A student can study abroad and use TIP funds if the Michigan institution is being paid the tuition. The course work does not have to be required.

A student can be considered a guest student at another institution as long as the student is enrolled at least half time. The guest school will be reimbursed at the first institution's tuition rate.

If one institution has a consortium agreement with another institution, the reimbursement rate for credits at the second institution will be at the first institution's rate.

M-Tech Centers are not considered eligible institutions unless the institution offers certificate or degree programs at the M-Tech Center and the student is enrolled in one of those programs. The student must also be eligible for Title IV federal aid programs.



## *Tuition Incentive Program*

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A non-credit course at an approved institution can be paid **only** if the course is defined in the institution's course catalog as a requirement for completion of the program.

### **Grade Point Average (GPA)**

This program does not include a GPA requirement

### **Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP)**

The student must be in compliance with the college's SAP standard.

If a student is enrolled during drop/add period but never attends class(es), the institution is entitled to keep funds for costs incurred. If a student does not meet the requirements of the institution's policy on SAP, the student will not be eligible for TIP the semester/term following the point of review.

## **Application/Certification**

Only students who have (or have had) Medicaid coverage for 24 months within 36 consecutive months are eligible to apply. The Department of Human Services (DHS) identifies students as early as age 12. Since the student must be Medicaid eligible for 24 months out of a 36 consecutive month period, we will look back at the 36 month period prior to the date of the student's 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. Medicaid eligibility prior to that 36-month period is not counted.

Treasury sends an application to all students who have been identified as eligible by DHS. To confirm eligibility, the student must return the application to SSG no later than August 31 of the academic year in which his/her class graduates.

Upon receipt of the application, SSG will send a letter of eligibility to the student, who must submit the letter to the college financial aid office.

Institutions should accept this eligibility letter as verification of financial eligibility for the program.

## **Renewal**

The college continues to bill SSG for all eligible students. The SSG payment rosters include a column that indicates the number of credit hours each student has left in the active phase of the program.



## Appeal Process

The college should direct students wanting to appeal an eligibility determination to address their inquiries to the Student Scholarships and Grants.

Students wishing to appeal their academic standing (SAP) should follow the procedures of their institution.

## Award Computation

### Phase I Award Amounts

#### ***Community College:***

Current in-district tuition and allowable mandatory fees (does not include college admission, on-line, or course-specific fees). For persons residing in an area that is not included in any community college district, the out-of-district tuition rate may be authorized. School determines in-district/out-of-district students. A map of community college districts appears on page 12.

#### ***Public University:***

Lower level public university resident tuition and allowable mandatory fees (does not include college admission, on-line, or course-specific fees) for the current year.

#### ***Independent, degree-granting colleges or universities or Michigan federal tribally controlled community college or Focus: HOPE:***

A per-credit payment that does not exceed the average community college in-district per-credit tuition rate as reported on August 1 for the previous academic year.

Treasury will calculate the average rate each year and notify all applicable institutions of the amount.

### Phase II Award Amounts

Tuition and fees not to exceed \$500 per semester or \$400 per term up to a maximum of \$2,000 for credits earned in a four-year program at a Michigan degree-granting college or university.



Coursework must be completed within 30 months of completion of Phase I requirements.

## Mandatory Fees

Fees cannot exceed \$250 per semester or term and are defined as “only those fees that are charged to all students across-the-board as a requirement for enrollment at the institution.” Some examples would be a student activity fee or a registration fee. **No course-specific, contact hours, lab, on-line, or college admissions fees will be covered.**

Example:

Student is taking 12 credits and has eligible mandatory fees associated with those credits but due to the 24/36 credits per academic year rule, has only six billable credits left for the year. The program will pay for the mandatory fees associated with the total credits taken, up to \$250 per semester/term.

Beginning Winter 2010 semester/term, ONLY registration fees, student activity fees, and technology fees will be allowed.

If your school does not have a registration fee, student activity fee or technology fee specified in your college catalogue as one that is charged to all students across the board as a requirement for enrollment, than that fee cannot be billed to TIP. The Student Scholarships and Grants cannot tell you what constitutes one of the 3 fees above. That is for your institution to determine.

Again, if your institution does not specify these three fees - **for all students** - they cannot be billed to TIP. A "lump sum" unspecific fee cannot be billed to TIP. Mandatory fees (registration fee, student activity fee and technology fee) must be approved by your college board.

Institutions cannot bill as a fee the tuition costs for students who have received payment for the maximum 24/36 credits for the academic year.

Institutions must complete the Request for Reimbursement Tuition Incentive Program form and submit to the Student Scholarships and Grants to receive payment. Request for Reimbursement is attached on page 15.



## Credit Hour Limit

TIP benefits cannot exceed 80 semester or 120 term credits (24 semester or 36 term credits per academic year). No contact hours will be covered.

Example:

<u>Classes</u>	<u>Credit Hours</u>	<u>Contact Hours</u>	<u>Lab Fees</u>	<u>Total</u>
Math 101	3	3	0	\$285
Chemistry 101	4	6	\$30	\$600
		9		
		contact hours x \$95 each (includes technology fee)		
		= \$855	\$30	\$885
		Registration Fee		\$25
			Total	\$910

The SSG payment rosters include a column that indicates the number of credit hours each student has left in the active phase of the program.

## Converting Clock Hours

Certificate programs based on clock hours **must be converted** to credit hours when billing TIP.

$$\frac{\text{Number of clock hours in the program}}{30} \\ = \text{equivalent semester or term credits}$$

## Packaging

Each institution shall ensure that all known available restricted grants for tuition and fees (**including Michigan Competitive Scholarship**) are used **prior** to billing the Tuition Incentive Program for any portion of a student's tuition and fees.

## Disbursement Procedures

Payment should be credited to the student's account unless the student has already satisfied financial obligations to the college; in such cases, all or part of the award may be paid directly to the student.



## *Tuition Incentive Program*

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Within the parameters of the student's enrollment status and other tuition-specific aid, division of the total award amount for the academic year may be divided among terms/semesters at the discretion of the financial aid officer.

## **Refunds**

Final eligibility for payment within an enrollment period depends on the student's status at the end of the refund period.

Refund payments must include the name of the program, the name of the student(s), and a check payable to the "State of Michigan." **Please Note: Payments are sent to a special box number of P.O. Box 30782.** Payments must be mailed to the Michigan Department of Treasury, Student Scholarship and Grants, P.O. Box 30782, Lansing, MI 48909.





## MICHIGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGES



Revised 01/05/09





1. **Alpena Community College:** Alpena Public School District
2. **Bay de Noc Community College:** Delta County
3. **Delta College:** Bay, Midland and Saginaw Counties
4. **Glen Oaks Community College:** St. Joseph County
5. **Gogebic Community College:** Gogebic County
6. **Grand Rapids Community College:** Kent Intermediate School District
7. **Henry Ford Community College:** Dearborn School District
8. **Highland Park Community College:** **CLOSED**
9. **Jackson Community College:** Jackson County, Albion, Chelsea, Grass Lake, Homer, Leslie, Manchester & Stockbridge School Districts
10. **Kalamazoo Valley Community College:** Climax & Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg-Augusta, Gull Lake, Kalamazoo, Mattawan, Parchment, Portage, and Schoolcraft/Vicksburg School Districts
11. **Kellogg Community College:** Calhoun, Barry, Branch, Hillsdale, Kalamazoo and St. Joseph School Districts
12. **Kirtland Community College:** Crawford Ausable, Fairview Area, Gerris-Higgins, Houghton Lake, Mio-Ausable & West Branch-Rose City School Districts
13. **Lake Michigan College:** Berrien County, Covert Township in VanBuren County and South Haven School District
14. **Lansing Community College:** Bath, Dansville, Dewitt, East Lansing, Grand Ledge, Haslett, Holt, Lansing, Mason, Okemos, Stockbridge, Waverly, Webberville and Williamston School Districts
15. **Macomb Community College:** Macomb County
16. **Mid Michigan Community College:** Gladwin and Clare County
17. **Monroe County Community College:** Monroe County
18. **Montcalm Community College:** Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, Tri-County, Vestaburg School Districts
19. **Mott Community College:** Genesee County
20. **Muskegon Community College:** Muskegon County
21. **North Central Michigan College:** Petoskey
22. **Northwestern Michigan College:** Grand Traverse County
23. **Oakland Community College:** Oakland County
24. **St. Clair County Community College:** St. Clair except Crosswell-Lexington and Richmond School Districts
25. **Schoolcraft College:** Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth-Canton, and part of Novi School Districts
26. **Southwestern Michigan College:** Cass County and Keeler and Hamilton Townships in VanBuren County
27. **Washtenaw Community College:** Washtenaw County
28. **Wayne County Community College:** Wayne County
29. **West Shore Community College:** Manistee, Mason, Lake, Oceana and Newaygo Counties